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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria/Rumania

DATE DISTR. 4 Jan. 1951

SUBJECT Status of Bulgarian Armed Forces

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25X1X 1.

[REDACTED] in Bulgaria who recently traveled from Sofia to Bucharest the military scene in Bulgaria has not changed materially from conditions existing at the end of August 1950. Regimental units of the estimated 15 divisions are being built to full strength. At least two hundred T-34 Soviet tanks are known to be distributed among the army units. In addition, limited maneuvers along the Yugoslav border area appear to stress training in heavy artillery weapons. One of the above sources believes that the Bulgarian Army is better equipped and better trained than the Rumanian Army, but that, despite this, they are not prepared to launch a definitive attack against Yugoslavia at the present time.

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2. In Giurgiu, Rumania, no undue amount of activity was noted. Two large river barges, whose cargo was carefully covered with canvas and reed mats, were seen. [REDACTED] the opinion that if it were only perishable commodities such as flour, canvas would have been used for the entire covering. Instead, the reed mats appeared to have been placed there only for a visual screen rather than for protection.

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3. [REDACTED] that general conversation among Bulgarians appeared to take it for granted that war would break out in the Balkans and other parts of Europe once the spring thaw set in. [REDACTED] indicate whether he shared this opinion.

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